

Date Mailed October 2, 2001

BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Application of UTELCO, Inc., for Approval of an Alternative
Regulation Plan

6030-TI-100

NOTICE OF TELEPHONIC HEARING

Telephonic Hearing Date:	Monday, October 15, 2001 – 12:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.
Hearing Locations:	Amnicon Falls Hearing Room, 1st Floor, Public Service Commission, 610 North Whitney Way, Madison, WI Blum Hall at Maple Grove, W5836 Old Argyle Road, Monroe, WI

Comments Due: Tuesday, October 16, 2001 – Noon	Address Comments To: David Albino, Administrator Telecommunications Division Public Service Commission P.O. Box 7854 Madison, WI 53707-7854 FAX (608) 266-3957
FAX Due: Monday, October 15, 2001 – Noon	

On August 28, 2001, the Commission issued a Notice of Proceeding and Investigation and Assessment of Costs (Initial Notice) in this docket. The Initial Notice stated that this is a proceeding under Wis. Stat. § 196.195(12) to consider whether it is in the public interest to approve an alternative regulation plan (Plan) for UTELCO, Inc. d/b/a TDS Telecom-Monroe (UTELCO) and if so, what provisions should be included in the Plan. Wis. Stat. § 196.195(12)(b)3. directs the Commission to regulate telecommunications utilities with the goal of developing alternative forms of regulation and to approve an incentive regulatory plan for each telecommunications utility in the state.

On May 25, 2001, UTELCO (Applicant) filed a proposed alternative regulation Plan under Wis. Stat. § 196.195(12). The Plan is nearly identical to alternative regulation plans recently approved for Grantland Telecom, Inc., and Riverside Telecom, Inc.¹ The Plan proposed by UTELCO would provide the Applicant with pricing and other regulatory flexibility as a result of the Applicant waiving certain rights under state law related to competition and filing a plan for

¹ Final Decisions in dockets 4580-TI-103 and 5140-TI-100, issued April 26, 2001.

deployment of advanced services. The pricing flexibility under the Plan includes rate rebalancing. Rate rebalancing generally involves increases to rates for local residential and business service and decreases to rates for intrastate access services paid by long distance providers.

By July 1, 2004, Applicant proposes to consent pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 196.50(1)(b)2, to allow other eligible telecommunications providers to be certified to provide basic local service in its service territory. Applicant also commits to filing wholesale tariffs by January 1, 2003. In addition, Applicant shall meet certain minimum service quality standards under the Plan while continuing to comply with Commission service quality rules. The Plan removes limitations on earnings, limits the ability of customers to petition for Commission review of rate increases, and suspends certain statutory sections. Copies of the Applicant's filing may be obtained by written request to Jean Pauk, TDS Telecom, P.O. Box 5158, Madison, Wisconsin 53705-0158 or by e-mail addressed to jean.pauk@tdstelecom.com.

Applicant is responsible for giving notice to customers of the filing of its application with the Commission and of the hearing scheduled herein. Applicant is responsible for producing proof of notice at the hearing.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that a hearing will be held on Monday, October 15, 2001, at 12:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. in Blum Hall at Maple Grove, W5836 Old Argyle Road, Monroe, Wisconsin. This will be a telephonic hearing conducted from two sites. This building is accessible to people in wheelchairs. Parking for people with disabilities is available. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations should contact the hearing coordinator listed below. Commission Staff will participate from the second location, the Public Service Commission Building, 610 North Whitney Way, Madison, Wisconsin in the Amnicon Falls Hearing Room. This building is accessible to people in wheelchairs through the Whitney Way, first floor (lobby) entrance. Parking for people with disabilities is available on the south side of the building. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations should contact the hearing coordinator listed below.

Any person desiring to become a party shall file a request pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(2m) and Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 2.32(3) no later than 10 days from the date of this notice. The request shall be addressed to Administrative Law Judge David C. Whitcomb, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, P.O. Box 7854, Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7854.

This is a Class 1 proceeding as defined in Wis. Stat. § 227.01(3)(a).

Members of the public who cannot attend the hearing, but wish to comment on Applicant's proposed Plan should submit written comments as indicated in the box on page 1. These comments must be received **by noon on Tuesday, October 16, 2001**. Comments by fax are due one day earlier. Fax filing cover sheets **must state "Official Filing"** and include the docket number and the number of pages (limit of 20 pages). **File by one mode only.**

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The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of programs, services, or employment. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations to participate in this proceeding or who needs to obtain this document in a different format should contact the hearing coordinator listed below.

Questions from the media may be directed to Jeffrey L. Butson, Public Affairs Director at (608) 267-0912. Questions from others regarding this matter may be directed to hearing coordinator Christopher Larson at (608) 267-9508.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, _____

By the Commission:

Lynda L. Dorr
Secretary to the Commission

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